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The period for which he was elected had now nearly expired, and he understood that it was the intention of some members to support a motion for the repeal of the law which thus operated against his re-election. He wished, however, in order to prevent any mistake on this matter, to state that he did not intend to offer himself again as a candidate. He had received the office on the condition that he was to hold it only for five years, and he now thought that he was called upon to relinquish it absolutely into the hands of the Academy, and would not, therefore, offer himself for re-election.

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Mr. Donovan read a paper, entitled, "Suggestions for the Improvement of Lighthouses."

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Professor Allman read a paper on the Structure of the Muscular Fibre in the Polyzoa.

"The muscles of the polyzoa are especially interesting in a physiological point of view, for they seem to present us with an example of true muscular tissue reduced to its simplest and essential form. A muscle may, indeed, in these animals, be viewed as a beautiful dissection, far surpassing the most refined preparation of the dissecting knife, for it is composed of a bundle of elementary fibres, totally separate from one another through their entire course. These fibres are distinctly marked with transverse striæ, a condition, however, which is not at all times equally perceptible, and some of our best observers have denied to the polyzoa the existence of striated fibre. At the meeting of the British Association at Southampton I made known its occurrence in *Cristatella*, and have since, by repeated observation, satisfied myself of the striated condition of the fibre in the great retractor muscle in all the other fresh-water genera. In *Paludicella* I have seen this state beautifully marked through the pellucid cell, in the whole extent of the retractor muscle, while the fibres were on the stretch in the exerted condition of the polypide; and in all the other genera it